



City Administrator's Report

July 2008

Dear Reader,

Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to send me your comments and suggestions.

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Key Meetings

City Council Meetings July 15, 22 and 29, City Hall Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street, 2 p.m.

Community Events

Concerts in the Parks Sunday, July 13, 20, and 27, Alameda Park, Micheltorena and Santa Barbara Streets, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Fiesta July 30 to August 3. For more information, visit:
www.oldspanishdays-fiesta.org

Flags on State Street www.santabarbaradowntown.com

American Institute of Architects July 7 to 21

Fiesta July 21 to August 4

City Administrator's Office

Gap Fire Information. The City of Santa Barbara is supporting the County of Santa Barbara and the U.S. Forest Service to inform the public about the Gap Fire. Information kiosks have been established at the following Santa Barbara locations: Paseo Nuevo at the 700 Block of State Street, the Mission, the base of Stearns Wharf, and the La Cumbre Plaza Shopping Center near Sears. The public can get the most current updates from the following web sites: www.countyofsb.org and www.inciweb.org. County Government Channel 20 is airing a scrolled message with the latest information. Two public hotlines have also been established for information on the Gap Fire at (805) 681-5195 and (805) 961-5770.

True Urbanism: Designing the Healthy City. The City of Santa Barbara was proudly invited to the City of Santa Fe in New Mexico, for its 46th International Making Cities Livable Conference from June 1st through 5th. City Councilmember Roger Horton gave a presentation about the City of Santa Barbara's Child-Friendly Infrastructure, discussing specifically how

Santa Barbara is one of the most livable cities in the world. For more information on the International Making Cities Livable Conference, visit the web site at: www.livablecities.org.

What's Going on Inside Santa Barbara? *Inside Santa Barbara* is City TV Channel 18's award-winning newsmagazine show. In this episode of *Inside Santa Barbara*, City TV covers the Thomas Guerry Awards, Highway 101 Operational Improvements between Milpas Street and Hot Springs Road, the Fire Department's Defensible Space Walk and Talk, Project Greenlight, Union Pacific Officer on a Train Safety Event, and Community of Respect program. This show premieres on Wednesday, July 9th at 6:30 p.m. You can watch City TV on Mondays at 8 and 8:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 5 and 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Saturdays at 9 and 9:30 p.m., and Sundays at 10 and 10:30 p.m. (schedule subject to change). You can also watch *Inside Santa Barbara* by visiting the web site at: www.santabarbaraca.gov. Click on the City TV 18 Quick Link.

Airport Department

Passenger Count Up in May. Close to 74,000 passengers arrived and departed at the Santa Barbara Airport (SBA) in May, 4.2% higher than the same month in 2007. The most popular routes were American's flights to Dallas/Ft. Worth and Horizon's Seattle service. Overall the passenger count at the Airport is up 3% for the first five months of 2008. SBA has nonstop service to six of the busiest international airports in the world: Los Angeles, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Denver, Las Vegas, Phoenix, and San Francisco.

Community Development Department

Plan Santa Barbara Workshops. Plan Santa Barbara is the City's process to update Santa Barbara's General Plan with input from the public. The General Plan shapes the future of the City by providing guidelines and initial environmental review of potential growth and development. Public workshops will be held on July 17th and 23rd in the Central Library's Faulkner Gallery to review draft policy options and shape potential new policies regarding sustainability and growth. The public can get more information on Plan Santa Barbara by visiting the web site at: www.YouPlanSB.org.

Solar Energy Awards. The City's Planning Division is preparing for another Solar Energy Awards ceremony, to be held at a City Council meeting in late summer. A solar energy system awards application is now available online and at the Planning and Zoning Counter at 630 Garden Street. A gallery of the 2007 solar energy award winners is also available online. Last year's awards winners were featured on a poster displayed at the City's booth at the Built Green Expo, held at City College on June 13th and 14th. The City has partnered with the Community Environmental Council and other organizations to participate in the federal Million Solar Roofs Program and is close to reaching its goal of 375 solar energy systems installed within the City by 2010.

The City is now accepting applications for solar energy system awards. Award applicants need to submit photographs of the project, kilowatt information regarding the installed system, and contact information. For information on different categories, contact Heather Baker at 564-5470.

Planning Commission Update. The Planning Commission will meet on July 10th, 17th and 24th. Some of the highlights include:

- On July 10th, the Planning Commission will reconsider the 101 East Victoria Street commercial condominium project. The Commission will also consider initiating a major amendment to the Mission Canyon Specific Plan, which will result in a new Mission Canyon Community Plan and related design guidelines. The City provides water and sewer service to parts of the area and has an important role in deciding on the appropriate amount of development.
- On July 17th, the Commission will hear a presentation on the Development Impact Fee Study and Infrastructure Financing Options prepared for Santa Barbara. The Commission will also participate in a Plan Santa Barbara Policy Options Workshop at the Faulkner Gallery at 6 p.m.
- On July 24th, the Commission will consider initiation of an annexation and three lot subdivision at 726 North La Cumbre Road. The Commission will also hear a briefing and have a discussion of City water resources related to Plan Santa Barbara.

Finance Department

May TOT Up 5.8%. Through 11 months of the fiscal year, the Transit Occupancy Tax (TOT) is up 2% over the same 11-month period from the previous fiscal year. The fiscal year-end estimate for TOT growth was 2%, which is on track to meet staff's estimate.

TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAXES								
Month	FY 2005	Change from Prior Year	FY 2006	Change from Prior Year	FY 2007	Change from Prior Year	FY 2008	Change from Prior Year
July	\$ 1,301,652	8.6%	\$ 1,477,789	13.5%	\$ 1,556,439	5.3%	\$ 1,613,163	3.6%
Aug	1,357,717	0.6%	1,504,589	10.8%	1,591,998	5.8%	1,645,684	3.4%
Sept	931,244	5.0%	1,109,428	19.1%	1,196,533	7.9%	1,218,695	1.9%
Oct	914,718	5.9%	963,261	5.3%	1,051,043	9.1%	1,075,341	2.3%
Nov	721,982	3.6%	809,684	12.1%	887,047	9.6%	870,754	-1.8%
Dec	575,075	4.0%	671,965	16.8%	669,540	-0.4%	669,133	-0.1%
Jan	606,484	3.7%	661,507	9.1%	677,428	2.4%	691,651	2.1%
Feb	699,349	-0.6%	738,532	5.6%	758,041	2.6%	811,319	7.0%
Mar	872,554	11.5%	855,597	-1.9%	953,927	11.5%	999,202	4.7%
April	941,281	7.5%	1,000,696	6.3%	1,046,772	4.6%	956,805	-8.6%
May	1,001,438	11.8%	1,015,349	1.4%	1,052,582	3.7%	1,113,345	5.8%
June	1,158,018	18.9%	1,223,974	5.7%	1,249,817	2.1%		
FY Total	\$ 11,081,510	6.9%	\$ 12,032,372	8.6%	\$ 12,691,167	5.5%	\$ 11,665,092	2.0%
Budget	\$ 10,684,900		\$ 11,504,200		\$ 12,630,600		\$ 13,581,500	

Includes only the 10% unrestricted TOT revenues. Beginning in January 2001, an additional 2% is credited to Creeks/Clean Water (Measure B).

Sales Tax Revenue Down 1.3%. The decline, for the quarter ended March 31st, was the second decline in the last three quarters. For the first three calendar quarters of the fiscal year we are down 0.8% from the prior year.

City of Santa Barbara SALES TAX								
Quarter Ended	FY 2005	Change from Prior Year	FY 2006	Change from Prior Year	FY 2007	Change from Prior Year	FY 2008	Change from Prior Year
Sept 30	4,512,083	-0.5%	5,164,138	14.5%	5,234,636	1.4%	5,154,452	-1.5%
Dec 31	4,946,706	3.8%	5,034,371	1.8%	5,109,958	1.5%	5,125,067	0.3%
Mar 31	4,367,907	1.8%	4,367,052	0.0%	4,698,398	7.6%	4,636,818	-1.3%
June 30	4,793,216	3.7%	4,992,005	4.1%	5,240,527	5.0%		
Totals	\$ 18,619,912	2.2%	\$ 19,557,566	5.0%	\$ 20,283,519	3.7%	\$ 14,916,337	-0.8%

Fire Department

Local Firefighters Assist in California Fires. Currently there are numerous fires burning in the state of California. Many of these fires were started by lightning strikes. The demand for fire resources is huge and the Fire Department is committed to our state and national Mutual Aid System. The department currently has 22 firefighters and staff assigned to fires in the state. The City's eight fire stations are fully staffed with backfill personnel and the use of reserve apparatus. As in the past, these off-district assignments will be reimbursed by the U.S. Forest Service or the State Office of Emergency Service.

Firefighters Alliance Fundraiser. The Santa Barbara Firefighters Alliance is a local non-profit organization that has donated over \$100,000 worth of specialized safety equipment to the City Fire Department over the last four years.

Recently the Alliance held a very successful "Fire Ball," their annual fundraising event. The event proceeds will be used to purchase essential firefighting equipment for the department that will include fire curtains, which are designed to shield and protect firefighters inside the fire trucks from advancing heat and flames, should it become necessary.

Update on Fire Station No. 1 Seismic Retrofit Project. On June 27th, construction began at Fire Station No. 1 on Carrillo Street with the placement of a contractor's trailer and site preparation, which will be followed by excavation for new water, sewer, and electrical service. By mid-August, firefighters will move into temporary quarters within trailers being placed on-site. Construction is scheduled to be completed by June 2009.

Library Department

New Hours at the Central Library. To help meet the challenges of lower revenues projected for Fiscal Year 2009, the Central Library will close at 8 p.m. from Monday through Thursday, instead of 9 p.m., beginning Friday, August 1st. Other hours and services will remain unchanged.

Foreign Language Collection. The Central Library has begun offering books in selected foreign languages. Until recently, only books in English and Spanish were available from the Library System. In response to requests from patrons, a small collection of books in Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, German, French, Italian and Russian are now being purchased. As with other library materials, they may be requested for pick up at any library in the Black Gold Cooperative Library System for a nominal transfer fee of 50 cents per item.

Restroom Remodel at Central Library. The Santa Barbara Central Library was constructed in 1920 and has been updated and remodeled since then, but retains its original architecture and use. With new standards and building code updates introduced over the years, the existing public restrooms are not compliant with current California Accessibility Standards and the Americans with Disabilities Act. To bring the public restrooms into full compliance, they will be closed for renovation from July 7th through September 19th. The new bathrooms will include toilets with the latest water-saving features including dual-flush valves and waterless urinals. The new partitions and ceramic tiles are made from recycled materials. Painted surfaces will use low volatile organic compound (VOC) content paint and will meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards for new construction. New electric hand dryers will be installed to eliminate as much paper waste as possible. Portable restrooms will be available during construction and will be located in the plaza behind the Library building.

Children and Teen Summer Reading. The summer reading program began June 16th in the Central Library, the five branch libraries and the bookmobile. This year's theme is "Catch the Reading Bug," for younger children, and "Metamorphosis @ Your Library" for teens. A full summer of reading and entertaining programming in the libraries is planned.

Parks and Recreation Department

Urban Forest Inventory Grant. The Parks and Recreation Department has been awarded a \$42,000 grant from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to conduct a focused assessment of 10% of the Street Tree Inventory and develop four self-guided tree tour maps and a community guide to tree species. The grant will supplement the recently completed Street Tree Inventory and will provide valuable baseline information for the development of a Urban Forest Management Plan.

Summer Camps Off to Great Start. Nature Camp, Aquacamp and the Skateboard Clinic opened with full capacity the week of June 23rd, the beginning of summer camp season. While these popular programs are nearly full for the summer, other camps and sports clinics still have some openings. Parents are encouraged to register their children for Beach Volleyball, Kiteboarding, Kayaking, Soccer, Tennis, Sports and Beach, Ceramics, Cheerleading, Discovery or Doggone Fun camps by visiting the web site: www.sbparksandrecreation.com/summerfun. Most camps run weekly through August 22nd. For information, call 564-5418.

Safe, Summer Fun for Teens. Teen Programs promises a summer full of thrills with *Summer Late Nights* trips to Southern California's best theme parks. Six Flags, Knott's Berry Farm, Hurricane Harbor, Universal Studios and Disneyland are all on the ticket for Wednesday and Saturday trips, which began on July 2nd. Teens can pay a low fee for a day trip that includes the park ticket, round trip bus ride and a light snack. Call Teen Programs today to sign up for summer fun at 882-1235.

Police Department

Gang Stabbing. On July 4th, at approximately 9:16 p.m., shortly before the fireworks show, officers were dispatched to a call of a subject near the Dolphin Fountain at Stearns Wharf suffering from stab wounds. Officers responded and located a 15 year old male juvenile with lacerations. Medics responded and transported the juvenile to Cottage Hospital where he was treated and released. At about the same time, officers were flagged down on a report of a second stabbing victim on the 200 Block of East Cabrillo Boulevard. Additional officers responded to the 200 Block of East Cabrillo Boulevard and located a 15 year old juvenile with stab wounds. This juvenile was unresponsive. Medics responded and transported the juvenile to Cottage Hospital where he ultimately succumbed to his injuries. Moments later, Police received information that a 14 year old juvenile had been transported to Cottage Hospital by family members. This juvenile was suffering from a stab wound and he claimed the incident happened near Cabrillo Boulevard. Due to the number of officers working at the Fourth of July event, numerous officers were allocated from other assignments and responded to the hospital and both locations on Cabrillo Boulevard to assist with the investigation by conducting crowd control, detaining subjects, locating and interviewing witnesses, and securing evidence.

The homicide investigation is ongoing. A total of ten arrests have been made which include six juveniles and four adults. This incident is considered gang-related. The Police Department is asking for the public's help with this investigation. If anyone has any information about this incident, please call the Santa Barbara Police Department at (805) 897-2300.

PAL Slam Dunks. On June 7th and 8th, the Santa Barbara Police Department Police Activities League (PAL) participated in the Longhorns Basketball tournament held in Thousand Oaks. The 5th grade boys team placed in second. The 6th grade and 7th grade boys team made it to the semi-finals. The 6th grade girls team played in the 7th and 8th grade division and won third place. Based on their performance, the 7th grade boys team, the 5th grade boys team, and the 6th grade girls team have all qualified to participate in the Tournament of Champions which will be held in Santa Clarita on the weekend of June 28th and 29th.

The under 15 PAL boys soccer team made it to the playoffs for the Oxnard PAL soccer league by placing fourth in the league.

The PAL Youth Leadership Council sent four representatives along with Officer Kent "Wojo" Wojciechoski to the National PAL Youth Leadership Conference held in Ohio.

Officer On-A-Train Safety Event. In an effort to heighten awareness about the importance of rail safety, members of the Santa Barbara Police Department, which included Beat Coordinators and the Tactical Patrol Force, and the Southern California Rail Safety Team conducted an Officer-On-A-Train safety event along the tracks in Santa Barbara and outlying areas on June 26th. The officers monitored railroad crossings and the railroad right-of-way. Officers enforced rail-related code violations which included trespassing, failing to stop at a railroad crossing signal, and driving around down railroad crossing gates. City officials and members of the media were invited to ride the safety train for the opportunity to witness what locomotive engineers see daily.

Police Academy Graduation. On June 27th, the Ventura County Criminal Justice Training Center held a police academy graduation in Camarillo. Among the graduates were six new

members of the Santa Barbara Police Department. The new officers are Benjamin Ahrens, Nathan Beltran, Christopher Martinez, Brian Sathre, Thomas Van Eyck, and Renelle Smit.

Public Works Department

Engineering's Map Vault Archive Project. The Public Works Department is nearing completion of an inventory and archiving project in which approximately 30,000 maps and drawings were scanned and indexed electronically.

The maps had been housed in flat files in the Engineering "Map Vault," which is an old reinforced concrete room with a bank locked 3' x 3' metal door. The vault had reached its storage capacity. Vault contents included current maps, and maps dating back as far as the early 1900's. They included street and utility maps, structures and facilities maps, water drawings, assessment district and assessor maps, and parking and traffic maps. Staff developed a database for them, then imported the scanned maps into a "virtual" document library. This project took several years to complete. The project allows staff to assist the public more efficiently with map requests, and further promotes the City's sustainability efforts by significantly reducing the need to copy drawings.

It's Slurry Time. Each year, the City repairs the streets in a designated area. The Pavement Maintenance Program includes pavement preparation, crack seal and slurry seal to allow the streets to continue to be in a safe and usable condition. Work will be performed in the Upper State Street, San Roque, and Samarkand areas. Residents will be notified as each operation enters the area, and general information is made available on the City's web site. Construction commenced on June 30th and will be completed by mid-September of 2008.

New Look on Carrillo Hill. On June 27th, the City successfully completed construction of the Carrillo Hill Sidewalk Improvement Project. Public improvements include a new sidewalk, access ramps, curbs and gutters, retaining walls, a re-profiling of Kenwood Road, and landscaping on the north side of Carrillo Street between Miramonte and La Coronilla Drives.

The completion of the sidewalk provides an important portion of the pedestrian link from the Mesa to Downtown, which fulfills City goals to increase pedestrian travel, improve pedestrian safety, and encourage public transit use by providing better access to bus stops.

Construction was completed within budget with an estimated total project cost of \$1 million. The project was funded by a Regional Surface Transportation Program State Grant, Transportation Enhancement Federal Grant, and the City's Streets Capital Fund. Construction was completed just in time for the summer recreation season.

The next segment of the pedestrian link includes connecting the sidewalks on the north side of Carrillo Street between Miramonte Drive and Chino Street and south of Island View Drive. This segment is currently in the design phase and is targeted for completion by the summer of 2009.

Waterfront Department

Lottery Drawing for Twenty-Foot Slip Permits. On June 19th, the Harbor Commission conducted a lottery drawing to rank prospective slip permittees for four available twenty-foot slip permits in the Santa Barbara Harbor. A total of 63 Twenty-Foot Slip Lottery Participation Requests were received by the June 4th deadline. The Commission Chair randomly drew all 63 names, one by one, and ranked them for potential assignment of slip permits. After the drawing, staff mailed slip permit applications to the top four ranked individuals, each of whom will have thirty days to accept the offer. If any offers are not accepted, staff will mail the corresponding number of declined permit offers to individuals ranked next in the lottery drawing, with the same thirty day acceptance requirement. The large number of lottery participants demonstrates the popularity of Santa Barbara Harbor to boaters.